THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Preliminary enquiry reveals that allotments of forest land to the tribals in this area by the State Government have been done in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) State Government has been requested to ascertain the extent and nature of encroachments.

(d) The Government of Kerala has appointed a Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary with the Revenue Secretary and Forest Secretary as members to oversee the eviction of all encroachers from the area.

(e) The Government of Kerala has appointed one man Commission (Additional Chief Secretary to State Government) to go into all the aspects of the illegal occupation and to ascertain if there are any lapses on the part of the Government Officials.

Cutting of trees on Delhi-Gurgaon highway

4709. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4000 trees would be chopped to make way for widening the highway connecting Delhi to Gurgaon on a stretch of 20-25 kms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a matter of rule, the cut trees would have to be replaced with twice the number thereof; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to get them replaced on Rao Tula Ram Marg, when there is a daily traffic of about 1.5 lakh per car unit and trees are the only source to control the pollution in the vicinity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that a proposal has been received from National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on 8.4.2002 seeking permission

under Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994 to fell 6184 trees for widening of NH-8 from 14.200 Km point (Rao Tula Ram Marg) to 23.965 Km point (belhi-Haryana border). Under the provisions of the Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994. the permission is given with a condition to plant 10 times the number of trees to be felled.

Pollution free rivers

† 4710. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) which rivers have been made pollution-free so far;

(b) the amount spent so far on each of the rivers made pollution free;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated the 23rd March, 2002 under the caption 'Yamuna ko pardooshan mukta karne ka vishesh abhiyaan sooru ho: Thakur'; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) to take up pollution abatement works in 152 towns along the polluted streches of 27 rivers spread over 16 States is under implementation. The impact of NRCP on the abatement of river pollution will be visible only after all the works under the schemes are completed by 2005. The State-wise amount spent on rivers so far given in Statement enclosed. *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A scheme of pollution abatement of river Yamuna (Yamuna Action Plan), which is part of National River Conservation Plan, is already under implementation covering pollution abatement works in 21 towns, break-up being Haryana (12), UP (8) and Delhi. Of these, works in 15 towns assisted by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIG), are in final stages of completion. A

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.